

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Michael A. Dukes,)	C/A No. 0:12-3445-JFA-PJG
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
vs.)	ORDER
)	
Warden Michael McCall,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

The *pro se* petitioner, Michael A. Dukes, brings this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging his state court conviction and sentence.

The Magistrate Judge assigned to this action¹ has prepared a Report and Recommendation suggesting that the petition is successive and that it should be summarily dismissed because the petitioner has not received permission from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to file a successive § 2254 petition. The Magistrate Judge further notes that the petitioner has previously raised a challenge to his state conviction in *Dukes v. Padula* (C/A No. 0:11-819-JFA-PJG), wherein the court dismissed the petition because the grounds were procedurally barred. The Report sets forth in detail the relevant facts and standards of law on this matter, and the court incorporates such without a recitation.

¹ The Magistrate Judge's review is made in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Civil Rule 73.02. The Magistrate Judge makes only a recommendation to this court. The recommendation has no presumptive weight, and the responsibility to make a final determination remains with the court. *Mathews v. Weber*, 423 U.S. 261 (1976). The court is charged with making a *de novo* determination of those portions of the Report to which specific objection is made and the court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the recommendation of the Magistrate Judge, or recommit the matter to the Magistrate Judge with instructions. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).

The petitioner was advised of his right to file objections to the Report and Recommendation, and he has timely done so. The court has conducted the required *de novo* review and find the objections without merit and duplicative of the claims raised in his original petition. Thus, the objections are overruled.

The Magistrate Judge is correct in her opinion that the claims raised in this petition are successive. As the petitioner has not received permission from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to file a successive § 2254 petition, this court is without authority to entertain it. 28 U.S.C. § 2244 and *United States v. Winestock*, 340 F.3d 200, 205 (4th Cir. 2003) (“In the absence of pre-filing authorization, the district court lacks jurisdiction to consider an application containing abusive or repetitive claims.”)

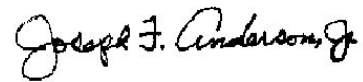
After a careful review of the record, the applicable law, the Report and Recommendation, and the objections thereto, the court finds the Magistrate Judge’s recommendation proper and incorporated herein by reference. Accordingly, this action is dismissed without prejudice and without issuance and service of process.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a certificate of appealability is denied because the petitioner has failed to make “a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.”

28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2).²

² A certificate of appealability will not issue absent “a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) (West 2009). A prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find both that his constitutional claims are debatable and that any dispositive procedural rulings by the district court are also debatable or wrong. *See Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336 (2003); *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); *Rose v. Lee*, 252 F.3d 676, 683 (4th Cir.2001). In the instant matter, the court finds that the petitioner has failed to make “a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.”

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph F. Anderson, Jr." in a cursive script.

Joseph F. Anderson, Jr.
United States District Judge

June 4, 2013
Columbia, South Carolina